

CITY Visions

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF MORGAN HILL • NOVEMBER 2003

Group Travels To Second Sister City

ON SEPTEMBER 14th, a delegation from Morgan Hill flew to San Martin de Hidalgo in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. They went to formalize the Sister City relationship between the two cities and to join in celebrating Mexican Independence Day.

Municipal Presidente Dr. Rosas-Comacho introduced the delegation to the townspeople attending the cultural arts fiesta in the town plaza that evening.



September 15th (Mexico's Declaration of Independence Day) started with a potluck breakfast in the village of Santa Cruz, where ladies from the local

senior center entertained the group with comic folk dances. The dances were followed by an elementary school classroom tour given by local teachers and uniformed students. At 1:00, there was a solemn session of the City Council held solely for the joint signing of the Sister City Proclamations. The event was heavily attended by the townspeople. That evening, the delegation was introduced again at the Independence Day Festival in the town plaza, and Mayor Kennedy was presented with the key to the city.

September 16th (Independence Day) was also a day of ceremony. Mayor Kennedy and Chuck Dillmann, Chairman of Morgan Hill's Sister City Committee, unveiled a bronze plaque mounted in the band stand at the center of

the City Plaza that commemorates the ties between the two cities. Then, amid much ceremony, two wreaths were placed at the base of a column in the center of town which had a bust of Padre Miguel de Hidalgo (Father of Mexico's Independence) on top. One wreath had a ribbon marked "San Martin de Hidalgo." The other said "Morgan Hill." Uniformed children from all of the city's schools marched in the Independence Day parade.

The delegation was then taken to the dedication ceremony of a newly completed neighborhood park. The park, partially built with funds from the local residents, was named in honor of Morgan Hill. Mayor Kennedy became volunteer goalie as the neighborhood kids practiced their skills with the two new soccer balls given to them at the ceremony.

Each member of the Morgan Hill delegation paid for their travel expenses and City funds were not used to subsidize the travel. For more information regarding the local and international opportunities through the Sister Cities program, contact Chuck Dillmann at chuckd@garlic.com.

Article by Bill Newkirk, Business Assistance and Housing Analyst, 776-7373, Newkirkb@morgan-hill.ca.gov

Youth+You: Make The Connection

CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME: YOUTH SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SPEND TIME AT HOME AND SHOULD NOT BE OUT WITH FRIENDS WITH "NOTHING SPECIAL TO DO" MORE THAN TWO NIGHTS PER WEEK.

FIND OUT ABOUT MORE TEEN ACTIVITIES BY CALLING RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AT 782-0008. (SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE)

ASSET OF THE MONTH
www.projectcornerstone.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- RAINY DAY PREPARATION
- EASY HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS
- GIVING TREE AT CITY HALL
- COMMUNITY CALENDAR & CHANNEL 17 SCHEDULE

DON'T LET RAINY DAYS GET YOU DOWN

AS THE warm weather of summer fades into our memories and the ground becomes littered with leaves, we all know that wetter days lie ahead. While we welcome the abundant rainfall that replenishes our groundwater, this same rainfall holds the potential for property damage, dangerous conditions, and significant inconvenience.

It's with the latter thought in mind that Public Works maintenance crews are already in the midst of a time-tested routine that begins in late summer: clearing debris and vegetation from sections of drainage channels that are maintained by the City, vacuuming leaves and debris from catch basins and curbs, and ensuring that tools and equipment are up-and-ready for whatever the weather brings.

The Fall is also a good time for residents to begin putting together their own checklists in preparation for possible winter storms. Here are a several tasks you can do around your home to minimize flooding and rain damage to your property.

1. Check your rain gutters and drain spouts. Make sure these areas are clear of any debris. This could include trimming back tree branches that overhang portions of your rain gutters. Here's a good test: take a garden hose and run some water through your rain gutters. If the water isn't running freely, check to see what might be obstructing the flow.
2. This is also a good time to make sure that rain gutter connections are intact. During a rainstorm, the weight of water-soaked debris can cause one of your connections to disconnect, leading to serious ponding in some areas around your home.
3. Another step for preventing unpleasant, late-night surprises is to wrap exposed water pipes with some sort of insulating material in the event of a cold snap. It's not unusual for temperatures to drop below freezing, which can cause water to freeze in fire sprinkler systems, home irrigation systems, and other exposed piping. This freezing can cause hairline fractures, a pulling apart at joints, and even pipe ruptures. A home-made wrapping can be any type of bulky, warm material, such as an old blanket. Cover the wrapping with protective plastic to keep it dry.

Finally, your home may have its own "annual" flooding spots that you know to look for each rainy season. As in years past, the Public Works Department will again provide sandbags and sand at no charge to you as a city resident, for your convenience and home protection. The sandbags will be available to 100 Edes Court.



Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337 or jayj@morgan-hill.ca.gov



A Rainy Day Scene: During rain storms last year, Public Works crews form up an assembly-line operation to fill sandbags for use in various public areas around the city.

Holiday Giving Made Easy And Special

As the holidays approach, many of us find ourselves searching for the perfect gift for our friends and family members. In the interests of simplifying our lives and reducing shopping stress, you may want to consider the following ideas:

Gifts For Children

- Simple book about the child, written and illustrated by you!
- The makings for hand puppets — brown lunch bags, googly eyes, scissors, markers etc.

Homemade Gifts

- Record interviews of parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles on audio or video tape; you can ask them to discuss their memories of the person you plan to give the tape to, or your family's history, especially funny or meaningful anecdotes.
- Make your own cards and send them to relatives and good friends.
- Frame one of your best photographs. Buy a frame from a local business or artisan. Or make one yourself out of stiff paper or cardboard, decorated with colored paper, old wrapping paper, beads and/or natural products (like leaves, small pinecones, or seeds).

SEE "GIFTS" NEXT PAGE

Butterfield and Tennant Avenue Meet Soon

"GIFTS" FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

- Make your own calendar using cutout pictures, photos, and/or drawings.
- Assemble a collection of favorite recipes.

Gifts of Time

- Special activities with a significant other—a candlelight dinner, massage, or outdoor activity.
- A monthly lunch date with an elderly relative or friend.
- A handwritten letter or card sent to a long-distance friend or relative once a month for a year.

Family Gifts

- A jigsaw puzzle for the whole family.
- Tickets to a favorite cultural or sporting event.

Gifts For Our Environment

- Assemble a Turn the Tide gift basket with compact fluorescent light bulbs, forms for getting rid of unwanted mail, delicious recipes and a note about how the recipients can log on to www.turnthetide.org and see exactly how much of a positive impact they're having on the environment.
- Buy a potted Christmas tree and replant after the holidays. (You can also have a tree planted elsewhere in someone's honor through American Forests at <http://www.americanforests.org/>.)
- Instead of new wrapping paper, reuse old paper, the Sunday comics section, old maps, decorated brown grocery bags, or a colorful piece of material.

Donations To Honor A Loved One

- Alternative Gifts International offers a wide array of global gifts that can be given in the name of your friend or relative. Their partner organizations include 33 projects such as Fuel Efficient Stoves in El Salvador, Conquering Tuberculosis in North Korea, Literacy Training in Senegal, Land Mine Awareness in Vietnam or Organic Gardening in Belize. Contact Alternative Gifts at 1-800-842-2243, P.O. Box 2267, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356. Free catalog from altgifts@sisp.net or www.altgifts.org.
- Give a donation to a local cause such as a soup kitchen, a shelter for battered women, a local environment group, etc. Call local churches, synagogues, and charitable organizations for ideas.
- Give a friend a membership to a nonprofit organization. JustGive.org allows you to donate online to thousands of charities.

Article by Anthony Eulo, Assistant To The City Manager; 779-7247 or teulo@morgan-hill.ca.gov

CONSTRUCTION WORK on the Butterfield Boulevard extension running from San Pedro to Tennant Avenue will be approximately 90 percent complete by November 1, according to Senior Engineer Julie Behzad. Completion of construction, which is funded by the Redevelopment Agency, is anticipated prior to the end of December. Shown in the picture is the wide bend coming from the north to the south as Butterfield Boulevard swings into Tennant. The construction of this phase of Butterfield Boulevard will bring a full crosstown arterial connecting Cochrane Road to Tennant Avenue.

This Phase 4 work on Butterfield includes four travel lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, planted median, approximately 1,000 lineal feet of Butterfield channel extension, and three traffic signals. All of the water, sewer, and storm drain undergrounding is now complete, and pavement work is nearly at 100 percent installation. The only paving still to be constructed is due to the undergrounding of overhead utilities at the San Pedro and Tennant intersections and the completion of culverts where Butterfield intersects Barrett and Tennant. Additionally, all surface improvements (street lights, landscaping, striping) are complete.



Article by Jay Jaso, Management Analyst, 776-7337 or jayj@morgan-hill.ca.gov



GIVING TREE AT CITY HALL

FOR OVER 20 years Community Solutions has made holidays happier for between 500-600 children and adults in our community with "Love Baskets" and the "Adopt-a-Family" program. The City of Morgan Hill is pleased to continue to partner with Community Solutions by providing a "Giving Tree" in the lobby of City Hall. The gift tag ornaments will be available on Monday, December 1st. Residents are encouraged to choose a tag or two from the tree and return wrapped gifts to City Hall no later than Friday, December 12th. Donations of canned goods and other nonperishable food items, disposable diapers, and blankets are also very much appreciated. If you have any questions about the "Giving Tree," please contact Karen Lengsfeld, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, at 779-7278 ext. 459 or lengsfeld@morgan-hill.ca.gov. If you would like to volunteer to assist Community Solutions assemble and deliver the "Love Baskets," please contact Alice Jones at 776-6282.



Article by Karen Lengsfeld, Coordinator of Volunteer Services, 778-7278 or lengsfeld@morgan-hill.ca.gov



MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION: 11/05 7PM LIVE
11/06 NOON REPLAY
11/08 8PM REPLAY
11/09 NOON REPLAY

REGULAR SESSION: 11/19 7PM LIVE
11/20 NOON REPLAY
11/22 8PM REPLAY
11/23 NOON REPLAY

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION: 11/11 7PM LIVE
11/12 NOON REPLAY
11/15 NOON REPLAY
11/16 8PM REPLAY

REGULAR SESSION: 11/25 7PM LIVE
11/26 NOON REPLAY
11/29 NOON REPLAY
11/30 8PM REPLAY

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS 9:00AM & 4:30PM DAILY
7PM FRIDAY

TIPS FOR CHOOSING A COLLEGE 10:00AM & 5:30PM DAILY
8:30PM FRIDAY

FUGITIVE WATCH 11:00AM & 6:30PM DAILY
THE BAY AREA'S MOST WANTED 9:00PM FRIDAY

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

ELECTION DAY • NOVEMBER 4TH

VETERAN'S DAY • NOVEMBER 11TH

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP • NOVEMBER 12TH

The next class is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th, from 7:00PM-9:00PM at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 918-4640.

COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN • NOVEMBER 18TH

A draft plan for future improvements will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers. Join us and come prepared to share your ideas! If you have any questions please contact Mori Struve at the Public Works Department at 776-7333

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY • NOVEMBER 27TH, 28TH

City offices will be closed November 27th and November 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday. Regular garbage and recycling service schedules will apply.



CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor **Dennis Kennedy** 779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore **Hedy L. Chang** 778-0511
Councilmember **Larry Carr** 779-9622
Councilmember **Greg Sellers** 778-2370
Councilmember **Steve Tate** 779-6992
City Clerk **Irma Torrez** 779-7259
City Treasurer **Michael Roorda** 778-3653

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager **J. Edward Tewes**
City Attorney **Helene L. Leichter**
Assistant To The City Manager **Melissa Stevenson Dile**
Assistant To The City Manager **Anthony Eulo**
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director **Garrett Toy**
Community Development Director **David Bischoff**
Council Services and Records Manager **Irma Torrez**
Finance Director **Jack Dilles**
Human Resources Director **Mary Kaye Fisher**
Police Chief **Gerald T. Galvin**
Public Works Director **Jim Ashcraft**
Recreation and Community Services Manager **Julie Spier**

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control 776-7300
Building Inspection 779-7241
Business Assist. & Housing Services 776-7373
City Clerk 779-7259
City Manager 779-7271
Community & Cultural Center 782-0008
Environmental Programs 779-7247
Finance 779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire) 378-4010
Job Hotline 779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning 779-7247
Police Administration 776-7315
Public Works 776-7337
Recreation & Community Services 782-0008
Water 779-7221
Volunteer Programs 779-7278
City Hall Fax Number 779-3117

City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome.

Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or

environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

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